

**Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation  
Environmental Assessment**

**Operator:** Synergy Offshore LLC

**Well Name/Number:** U102B

**Location:** SW NW Section 2 T34N R6W

**County:** Glacier, **MT;** **Field (or Wildcat)** Cut Bank Field

**Air Quality**

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: 5 to 10 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, single derrick drilling rig for a 3025' vertical Cut Bank Formation well.

Possible H2S gas production: No H2S anticipated.

In/near Class I air quality area: Yes, Class I air quality area, Blackfeet Reservation.

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

☒ Air quality permit (AQB review)

☐ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: single derrick drilling rig to drill a Cut Bank Formation test well.

**Water Quality**

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, operator will use air and freshwater mud system.

High water table: None anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: No, closest drainage is Big Rock Coulee, about 1/2 of a mile to the west. Big Rock Coulee eventually drains into Cut Bank Creek.

Water well contamination: No, no water wells within 1 mile in any direction from this location. Surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater muds to 500' and steel surface casing run and cemented to surface to protect ground water.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy clay soils.

Class I stream drainage: Class I stream drainage is Cut Bank Creek, about 4 miles to the south from this location.

Mitigation:

☐ Lined reserve pit

☒ Adequate surface casing

☐ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage

☐ Closed mud system

☐ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: 550' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used on surface hole.

**Soils/Vegetation/Land Use**

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: None will utilize existing road crossings.

High erosion potential: No, small cut and small fill required.

Loss of soil productivity: No, location will be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, 200'X200' location size required.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is part cultivated, grass field.

Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight

Mitigation

☐ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)

☐ Exception location requested

☒ Stockpile topsoil

☐ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

☒ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

☐ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Using existing county road, Winkler School Road and existing pipeline company roads. Synergy will construct about 1/8 of a mile of new access road into this location from the existing roads. Cuttings will be buried in the earthen reserve pit. Drilling fluids and completion fluids will be allowed to dry in the earthen reserve pit. Pit will be allowed to dry then backfilled when dry. No special concerns

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### Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest residences are about 1/2 mile away; business about 1/8 mile.

Possibility of H2S: No H2S anticipated.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: single drilling rig 5 to 10 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

☒ Proper BOP equipment

☐ Topographic sound barriers

☐ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: No concerns, proper BOP stack and surface casing should be able to control any problems that occur. Cut Bank formation should be pressure depleted from production activities to the east in the unit.

### Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None, identified

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No

Threatened or endangered Species: Species identified as threatened or endanger in Glacier County are Grizzly Bear, Canada Lynx and Bull Trout. Candidate species are the Meltwater Lednian Stonefly, Sprague's Pipit, Wolverine and Whitebark Pine. NH tracker website lists no (0) species of concern.

Mitigation:

☐ Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

☐ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

\_\_\_ Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Private cultivated surface lands. There maybe species of concern that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to what he would like done, if a species of concern is discovered at this location. The Board of Oil & Gas has no jurisdiction over private surface lands.

### **Historical/Cultural/Paleontological**

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites None identified

Mitigation

\_\_\_ avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

\_\_\_ other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Private cultivated surface lands. There maybe possible historical/cultural/paleontological sites that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to his desires to preserve these sites or not, if they are found during construction of the wellsite. The Board of Oil & Gas has no jurisdiction over private surface lands.

### **Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

\_\_\_ Substantial effect on tax base

\_\_\_ Create demand for new governmental services

\_\_\_ Population increase or relocation

Comments: Well is being drilled in an existing oil field, Cut Bank Oil & Gas Field.

### **Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

Well is a 3025' Cut Bank Formation test well in the Cut Bank Oil Field.

### **Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects**

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur.

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I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/**does not**) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): \s\Thomas Richmond

(title:) Administrator

Date: September 3, 2013

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website  
(Name and Agency)

Glacier County water wells  
(subject discussed)  
September 3, 2013  
(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website  
(Name and Agency)  
ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES  
MONTANA COUNTIES, Glacier County  
(subject discussed)

September 3, 2013  
(date)

(Name and Agency)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(subject discussed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_

Others present during inspection: \_\_\_\_\_